



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Final Minutes of the Miracle Mile Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting - 20th meeting

July 10, 2003, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Flowing Wells Irrigation District
3901 N. Fairview
Tucson, Arizona 85705

E-II-5240.18.6.1.2

CAB Members Present: Gary Abrams, David Crockett, Pauline Massie, Manuel Ramirez, Jan Randolph

CAB Members Absent: Netty Buras, George Hembree

ADEQ Staff Present: Matt Doolen, Project Manager; SRO; Eileen Palese, Community Involvement Coordinator, SRO

Members of the Public Present: Frances Feld

The meeting began at 6:40 p.m.

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Co-chair Gary Abrams conducted introductions.

2. Approval of Minutes for 2/13/03 CAB Meeting

Dave Crockett motioned to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2003 meeting; Pauline Massie seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by the CAB.

3. Vote on Co-Chair Nominations: Gary Abrams and David Crockett

CAB members expressed support for the current co-chairs, who were both nominated to continue in the position for another year. Pauline Massie motioned to re-elect Gary Abrams and David Crockett; Manuel Ramirez seconded the motion. The co-chairs were re-elected; all in favor, none opposed.

4. Discussion and Vote on New Member Application: Frances Feld

Frances Feld expressed her interest in joining the CAB. David Crockett motioned to elect Frances Feld as a member; Pauline Massie seconded the motion. Frances Feld was elected to the CAB; all in favor, none opposed.

5. Site Investigation Update/Q&A

Matt Doolen presented an update on site activities since the last time the CAB met in February. He said that access from Pima County was granted for one of two wells ADEQ requested to install. One well site was not suitable due to Pima County's concerns related to potential drainage problems. A well was installed at the Homer Davis school, and one south of Wetmore and Romero (IRA-25). Both of these wells were sampled in April/May with IRA-26, the school well, showing a higher level of PCE than expected. He showed a map of the plume and pointed out that it now extends further to the north because of the additional data points gathered, and he explained that the dashed lines show the areas of the plume that are still unknown. He said with a limited budget next year, installing another well would be a top priority to determine the extent of the contamination plume. He said although the plume now looks bigger, the other wells sampled are showing a fairly substantial decline in concentrations. He said this could be because the plume has moved, or it could be because the contamination is being diluted by natural processes.

He reported on sampling for chromium concentrations and said that these levels have also decreased (this contaminant was detected above the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) above in IRA-9 and IRA-2 wells only. He said the path of this contaminant may be different from other contaminants, which is the reason why it only shows up in certain wells. He said that several perched monitor wells were installed in February. Most of the perched aquifer wells had high TCE concentrations when sampled in May.

Matt Doolen reported that he had hoped to have the draft Remedial Investigation finished in June, but additional work will need to be done before completing the site characterization. ADEQ also wants to look at the historic and current uses of the properties in the area before completing the RI. He said that although funding amounts were more than anticipated for the WQARF program, funding is still limited. He said it is important to determine the relative size of the plume before designing a cleanup system.

6. Call to the Public

No public present. (Frances Feld had been elected and joined the board at the table.)

7. CAB Report on Outreach Activities

Eileen Palese reported that she and Matt Doolen, along with CAB member Netty Buras, were invited to conduct a lesson for a 4th grade class at Homer Davis Elementary in conjunction with the well drilling on the school grounds. Matt Doolen used a groundwater flow model to help the students visualize how contaminants move through different types of soil, into an aquifer. She said the students were already very knowledgeable about hydrology through previous lessons. Matt Doolen said that perhaps the classes can observe future well sampling at the school. The CAB discussed the "thank you" letters from the children after the lesson.

The CAB discussed future involvement with the next steps of the Remedial Investigation (RI) which can be finalized after the Land and Water Use Study is completed. The draft RI will be put out for public comment and a public meeting, involving the CAB, will take place at that time.

8. Other Administrative Business

No other business was brought before the CAB.

9. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Discussion

The next meeting of the Miracle Mile Community Advisory Board will be held on Thursday, October 16, 2003, at the Flowing Wells Irrigation District, 3901 N. Fairview, in Tucson. Call Eileen Palese, ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator, at (520) 628-6712 for more information.

The CAB discussed possible agenda topics. Gary Abrams asked for another discussion on ways to increase membership. Jan Randolph said she would like to know what the state-of-the-art is on cleanup methods. Matt Doolen said a presentation would be beneficial when it gets closer to the time to make a choice about remediation, possibly at the beginning of next year. Jan Randolph said that as long as the CAB has been meeting, she has wanted to know what brought each person to the board--what kind of vision statement would the CAB write. She does not believe they had had the opportunity to have a shared vision.

Eileen Palese explained the process of CAB development and said the CAB can direct the future of the board. Gary Abrams said he believes the community involvement process started way to early in the investigation of the site. He said with such a long time involved, CABs lose members. He said it would have been better to wait for the facts to emerge to know what the CAB is toward. He feels it is too soon to meet with the public until that point and that is why the CAB is sitting idle.

Eileen Palese said she hopes that by meeting every 3 to 4 months, the CAB will remain together. Matt Doolen said that ADEQ is close to moving on to the next steps although the cleanup would not begin for at least another year.

Jan Randolph asked that a discussion about CAB members' reasons for participating be put on the next agenda. The CAB discussed the difficulties in finding people to participate with out a perceived emergency relating to the drinking water supply, water shortage, or other reasons.

The CAB asked for a demonstration of the Groundwater Flow Model at the next meeting.

10. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 7:40 p.m.

This meeting was recorded on cassette tapes as a record of the proceedings. To listen to the tape(s), or for additional documents mentioned in these minutes, contact ADEQ's Southern Regional Office, Community Involvement Office, 520/628-6712.

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